

From the Desk of:

Christopher J. Akins

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

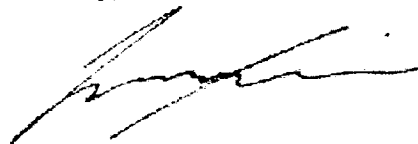
I'm writing to voice my strong support for the Microsoft settlement. Microsoft has agreed to terms that are not only unfair to Microsoft, but I feel, could quite possibly have negative consequences for Microsoft, a company that has revolutionized the software industry and provides thousands of jobs. Any further legal action by the states or the federal government is only frivolous and punitive.

In the settlement, Microsoft has already agreed to grant rights to computer-makers so that they may configure Windows to remove Microsoft products so the computer manufacturer can install its own competitive programs or programs from other software makers, such as RealNetworks or AOL's Instant Messenger.

Microsoft has also agreed to make it easier for computer manufacturers, consumers, and software developers to promote non-Microsoft products within Windows. Microsoft has further agreed to not retaliate against any software or hardware developers who develop software that directly competes with Windows or other Microsoft products. In a move that limits its own competitiveness, Microsoft will give the necessary license for its own intellectual property rights to a third party when that third party exercises options within the settlement that infringe on Microsoft intellectual property rights.

For these reasons, I support this flawed settlement in hopes the federal government and many states will not pursue any further punitive and frivolous legal action that will only result in the destruction of intellectual property and the demise of a business that has built the existing computer and software industry.

Sincerely,



Chris Akins

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